

CLAIMS:

1. A method of harvesting a section of an artery from a body comprising the following steps:

providing a dissection cannula having a lumen and an endoscope inserted into said lumen;

inserting said dissection cannula through an incision in the body; advancing said dissection cannula alongside the artery to dissect with said dissection cannula to create a space in body tissue, the space being at least partially occupied by said dissection cannula;

viewing via said endoscope;

providing a dissection tool separate from said dissection cannula;

dissecting surrounding tissue from the artery by moving the dissection tool along the artery.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said dissection cannula further comprises a balloon and said balloon is inserted into the body and inflated to cause additional dissection over that caused by the dissection cannula.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said balloon is inverted and inflating said balloon causes said balloon to evert and advance along the artery.

4. The method of claim 1 further comprising the step of ligating and dividing side branches from the artery.

5. A method of harvesting a section of an artery from a body comprising the following steps:

providing a dissection cannula having a lumen and an endoscope inserted into said lumen;

inserting said dissection cannula through an incision in the body; advancing said dissection cannula alongside the artery to dissect with said dissection cannula to create a space in body tissue, the space being at least partially occupied by said dissection cannula;
viewing via said endoscope;
dissecting surrounding tissue from the artery by moving a dissection tool along the artery;
removing a section of the artery.

6. A method of harvesting a section of an artery from a body comprising the following steps:

providing a blunt dissector having a lumen and an endoscope inserted into said lumen;
inserting said blunt dissector through an incision in the body;
advancing said blunt dissector alongside the artery to bluntly dissect with said blunt dissector to create a space in body tissue, the space being at least partially occupied by said blunt dissector;
viewing via said endoscope;
providing a dissection tool separate from said blunt dissector;
dissecting surrounding tissue from the artery by moving the dissection tool along the artery.

7. A method of harvesting a section of an artery from a body comprising the following steps:

providing a tunneling member having a lumen and an endoscope inserted into said lumen;
inserting said tunneling member through an incision in the body;
advancing said tunneling member alongside the artery to dissect with said tunneling member to create a space in body tissue, the space being at least partially occupied by said tunneling member;
viewing via said endoscope;
providing a dissection tool separate from said tunneling member;

dissecting surrounding tissue from the artery by moving the dissection tool along the artery.

8. A method of harvesting an artery from a body comprising the following steps: providing a dissection cannula having a lumen;

inserting an endoscope into said lumen of said dissection cannula;

inserting said dissection cannula through an opening in the body and positioning the dissection cannula adjacent the artery;

advancing said dissection cannula along the artery to create a space in body tissue,

the space being at least partially occupied by said cannula;

monitoring the advancing of said dissection cannula via said endoscope; removing said dissection cannula from the body;

retracting the space to create a working space; inserting a trocar into the body;

inserting a dissection tool through said trocar into the working space; and moving the dissection tool along the blood vessel to separate the artery from surrounding tissue.

9. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of retracting the space comprises the step of inserting an insufflation port into the body and insufflating the space via said insufflation port.

10. The method of claim 8 further comprising the steps of inserting an endoscope into the working space and monitoring the moving of the dissection tool along the artery.

11. The method of claim 8 wherein said dissection cannula has an inflatable member disposed on a distal portion of said dissection cannula.

12. The method of claim 11 further comprising the step of inflating said inflatable member.

13. The method of claim 8 wherein said trocar is inserted into the body after the step of removing said dissection cannula.

14. The method of claim 8 wherein said trocar is inserted into the body prior to the step of inserting said dissection cannula.

15. The method of claim 8 wherein said dissection tool comprises an elongate rod having a hook disposed on a distal end of said rod.

16. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of inserting the dissection cannula into the body adjacent the artery and advancing said cannula along the artery creates a space which is occupied entirely by the cannula.

17. The method of claim 8 wherein the step of removing said dissection cannula results in a space occupied by body tissue.

18. The method of claim 8 wherein said step of inserting said endoscope into said lumen of said dissection cannula is performed prior to inserting said dissection cannula through an opening in the body.